the Ministry had participated since forming of the separate Ministry.

(b) the details of the expenditure incurred thereon, exhibition-wise;

(c) whether Government are aware that there have been wide spread corruption and financial irregularities in the money spent on these fairs;

(d) whether Government are also aware that officials responsible with the fairs and exhibitions have amassed disproportionate assets due to this; and

(e) if so, the action proposed/taken against such corrupt officers who have misused the public money to their personal interest?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) After the Ministry's formation on 12/7/2006, there has been participation in 4 exhibitions:

(b)

	SI.No.	Details	Venue		Duration Expenditure
1.	"10th National Expo"	Kolkata	1st-8th Sept.	2006	Rs. 1,17,500/-
2.	"INDIA TECH" organized by CSIR	Beijing, China	8th-11th Sept.	2006	Rs. 14,12,500/-
3.	"Exhibition cum Fairs on Rural Technologies"	Deoghar Jharkhand	27th-31st Oct.	2006	Rs. 9,22,000/-
4.	"IITF'2006"	New Delhi	14th-27th Nov.	2006	Rs. 24,38,009/-

(c) No financial irregularities or corruption have come to notice.

(d) & (e) Do not arise.

Expansion in FPIs

†2727. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a wide expansion has taken place in food processing industries in the country during the last three years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of industries belonging to big business houses and big foreign companies in the country which have launched the production units under this industry by March, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) and (b) As per available data, there has been a robust growth in both the registered and un-registered manufacturing sector of food processing industries (FPI) over the previous three years ending March 2004. Domestic product from manufacturing food products, beverages etc. in registered sector has grown from Rs. 15742 crore in 2000-01 to Rs. 19086 in 2003-04 and that in unregistered sector it has grown from Rs. 12075 crore to Rs. 15540 crore during the same period. There is however, no specific classification of big business houses in the data maintained by the Government. However, top 20 foreign companies have invested in India an amount of Rs 1711.22 crores (US $36,837 crore) in the FPI sector during the period from January 2000 to March 2006.

Financial assistance for cold storage

2728. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided for setting up cold storage under various schemes;

(b) the amount spent on these schemes during the last three years, State-wise,

(c) whether Government have any proposal to review these schemes under the Eleventh Five Year Plan period to increase allocation of funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan scheme for Infrastructure Development provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid to various implementing agencies upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and up to 33.33% in difficult areas subject to